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## VOLNEY MORGAN SPALDING

In commemoration of the twenty-eight years of faithful service as teacher of botany in this university (1876 to 1904) and as a token of love and gratitude this tablet is erected by 100 of his former students.

*Per naturae opera mentem ad humanitatem finge-  
bat atque virtutem. Done in MCMIX.*

It may not be known to some of Professor Spalding's pupils and friends that, since resigning from the staff of the Carnegie Desert Laboratory at Tucson seven years ago, Professor Spalding with his wife has resided the most of the time at the sanatorium at Loma Linda, Calif., where, though considerably crippled by rheumatism, he enjoys a measure of health and happiness, and is held in the highest regard by both patients and staff, with whose ills he sympathizes and to whose mental enjoyment he daily contributes.

## SMITHSONIAN REGENTS MEETING

THE Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution assembled at the institution on December 14, 1916, for their 71st annual meeting, Chief Justice Edward D. White, chancellor, presiding. The others present were: Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall; Senators Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Henry F. Hollis, of New Hampshire; Representatives Ernest W. Roberts, of Massachusetts, and James T. Lloyd, of Missouri; Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, and Mr. John B. Henderson, Jr., of Washington, D. C., and Mr. Charles F. Choate, Jr., of Boston.

Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the institution and the administrative representative of the board, announced the re-appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Scott Ferris and Ernest W. Roberts, and the appointment of James T. Lloyd, of Missouri, to succeed Maurice Connolly, of Iowa, whose term in Congress had expired. Announcement was also made of the re-appointment of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, of the City of Washington, as "citizen" regent, by a joint resolution of Congress. Dr. Bell was also re-elected a member of the executive committee.

The resignation of Dr. Andrew D. White, of

Ithaca, New York, was presented and accepted. A resolution was adopted by the board in appreciation of his long and valued service, of nearly thirty years.

The report of the executive committee of the board was presented for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, and accepted. The report showed the total resources of the institution to be \$1,048,134.38, and the total income for the past year to be \$107,662.46. A summary of the appropriations for the several governmental branches of the institution for the fiscal year was also made.

The secretary's report for the fiscal year was presented and accepted by the board, following which he reviewed the recent work carried on and outlined the principal operations now under way. He stated that in September work was begun on the foundation of the million-dollar building donated by Charles Freer, for his collections of American and Oriental art presented to the institution some time ago, and that present indications point to its completion within two years.

A bequest by the late artist, Henry W. Ranger, gives the National Gallery of Art an opportunity of selecting and purchasing such paintings of deceased American artists as may be deemed desirable, the selected paintings being paid for from the Ranger fund.

Mention was made of the need of more funds for the proper classification and public installation of the National Museum's art-industrial collections, believed to be the richest and most varied of their kind in the country. Extensive and valuable additions to the several collections of the museum were reported as having been acquired during the year.

Among the researches of the Bureau of Ethnology, the secretary mentioned the excavation and repair of a large pueblo ruin in Mesa Verde National Park, conducted in co-operation with the Department of the Interior; and field investigations among the Fox, Quilente, Iroquois and Cherokee Indians.

In the report concerning the National Zoological Park, the need of certain tracts of land for entrances and boundaries was reported,

and the statement made, that an item for the sum required had been included in the park estimates for the fiscal year of 1918. The appointment of Ned Hollister, assistant curator of mammals of the National Museum, as superintendent was also announced. In co-operation with two other zoological institutions, the park sent a representative to South Africa to collect and purchase live animals. Recent advices from him seem to indicate excellent results.

The secretary reported briefly on the work of the astrophysical observatory on Mount Wilson, in connection with the investigations concerning the variations of the sun. An allotment has been made to Director Charles G. Abbott for the maintenance of an astrophysical observatory in South America for the purpose of determining the transmission of the sun's rays through the atmosphere.

Dr. Walcott, as chairman of the executive committee of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which organization has taken up much of the work that the Langley Aerodynamical Laboratory aimed to perform, reported considerable progress. An allotment from the Langley Laboratory, in connection with the Weather Bureau, provides for the investigation of problems of the atmosphere in relation to aeronautics, which investigation, it is expected, will ultimately result in the mapping of the atmosphere over the whole United States and adjoining areas, to a height of 20,000 feet.

Other reports concerning the operations of the Research Corporation, which handles, among other things, the Cottrell patents for the precipitation of dust, etc., the researches of Dr. Cottrell in fog precipitation and the work of Dr. C. Hart Merriam in zoology under the Harriman fund.

Among the expeditions and field work conducted recently, the secretary spoke of his own geological investigations in Alberta and British Columbia, the work of Dr. W. L. Abbott, whose gifts of ethnological and zoological specimens and generous financial contribution have been most valuable; and the zoological expedition being maintained in north China,

through the generosity of another friend of the institution.

The secretary stated that the Collins-Garner Congo Expedition, in the interests of the Smithsonian Institution, was about to leave for the French Congo, where zoological collections would be secured for the National Museum, the institution and museum being represented by Mr. Charles R. W. Aschemeier.

Arrangements for a three years' lease of the Cinchona Botanical Station by the institution from the government of Jamaica, were reported as practically completed. The main building, known as "Bellevue House," situated on the Island of Jamaica, together with the offices, laboratories and other buildings and about ten acres of land, are leased by the institution for the furtherance of the study of botany in this region. Assignments to botanists desiring to prosecute studies there, will be made by a committee composed of representatives of the 14 organizations which contributed the funds for the lease.

Mention also was made of the work of the other two government bureaus under the Smithsonian; the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, and the International Exchange Service.

Following adjournment, the regents inspected an interesting exhibit illustrating some of the many lines of work in which the institution or its branches took part during the past year.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the National Scientific Societies affiliated with it, opened in New York City on December 26 with a very large attendance. The address of the retiring president, Professor W. W. Campbell, of the Lick Observatory, on "The Nebulæ," given on the evening of the first day, will, owing to the extensive illustrations, be printed in *The Scientific Monthly*. We hope, however, to give an abstract in SCIENCE. There is printed elsewhere the address of Professor E. P. Lewis, chairman of the Section of Physics, and this will be followed by other addresses